

ISAMU UEMASU ET AL.
USSN 10/009,627
REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 29, 2004
AMENDMENT OF DECEMBER 29, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A continuous and selective inclusion separation method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said inclusion-complexing agent is at least one cyclodextrin.

4. (Previously Presented) A continuous and selective inclusion separation method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said raw material containing at least one compound to be separated is a raw material selected from the group consisting of indole-containing mixtures, disubstituted benzene isomer mixtures, trisubstituted benzene isomer mixtures, 2-methylquinoline-containing hydrocarbon oils, 7-methylquinoline-containing mixtures, 2,6-diisopropylnaphthalene-containing mixtures, 2-methylnaphthalene-containing mixtures, 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene-containing mixtures, and optical isomer mixtures of pinene, limonene, menthol, and mandelic acid esters.

5. (Previously Presented) A continuous and selective inclusion separation method as

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claimed in claim 8, characterized in that at least part of a solution as the organic phase containing a compound extracted thereinto as an object of separation is withdrawn and distilled to concentrate said compound, and the organic solvent separated by distillation is returned back to the reaction system and reused as the extraction solvent.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A continuous and selective inclusion separation method, said method comprising providing ~~characterized in that, in~~ a reaction system which has at least two liquid-liquid interfaces between an organic phase of raw material containing at least one compound to be separated and an aqueous phase of an aqueous solution of inclusion-complexing agent and between said aqueous phase and at least one organic phase of extraction solvent, and wherein a diaphragm easily permeable to said aqueous solution of inclusion-complexing agent but substantially impermeable to oil droplets of the two or more organic phases is provided in said aqueous phase to prevent said two or more organic phases in respective oil droplet forms from mixing with each other via said aqueous phase with stirring, stirring at least neighborhoods of the respective liquid-liquid interfaces ~~are stirred to form oil droplets of said organic phase of raw material and oil droplets of said at least one organic phase of extraction solvent, thereby~~ to entrap said at least one compound to be separated into said aqueous phase through formation of at least one inclusion complex of said inclusion-complexing

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agent with said at least one compound while entrapping said at least one compound into said at least one organic phase of extraction solvent through dissociation of said at least one inclusion complex.